

Notice to Trade

Subject: Verified Gross Mass (VGM)



Wrong declaration of cargo weight is a major hazard which often results in cargo claims, structural damages to vessels and also poses a significant risk to the lives of staff.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) convention under regulation 2 of chapter VI which mandates the declaration of the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of a packed container before loading on board vessels within a prescribed cut-off date / time to the shipping line and / or port terminal authorities.

Effective 1st July 2016, the regulation stipulates the use of two approved methods to declare the VGM for each container by the shipper or his representative. Noncompliance of VGM (Verified Gross Mass) can lead to huge penalty, container shut off and related additional expenses for which shipper will be held fully responsible.

SOLAS regulation for weighing containers allows two ways for weighing packed containers in order to obtain the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for each container by the shipper or his representative.

As per the regulation, either of the **two approved methods** must be used to declare the verified gross mass:

Method 1	Method 2
<p data-bbox="191 940 735 997">Real weight of the container including tare when cargo is packed</p> 	<p data-bbox="771 940 1425 997">Addition of the whole cargo including packing and the tare weight of the container</p> 

For more information on this regulation, it is important you may please go through any of below websites

- World Shipping Council,
- TT Club,
- ICHCA and the
- Global Shippers Forum (GSF).

Note that in order to catch the effective date of 1st July, we insist shippers to provide the VGM for all bookings from 15th June 2016 onwards. The weight declaration should contain the scale ticket of empty as well as laden box along with shipper's declaration in their letter head signed by authorised signatory and the company seal. Export boxes received without VGM, Scale Ticket and Declaration will not be gated in for loading. Shipper will be fully held responsible for any additional expenses due to non-compliance of this instruction.

For SpeedEX Freight Systems Pvt. Ltd.